

C l a i m s

1.

A system for transporting untreated drill cuttings, comprising a tank for containing the
5 drill cuttings during transport, characterized in that the tank is arranged
below deck on a ship and comprises an output unit at the bottom of the tank for feeding
the drill cuttings towards an output orifice in the tank bottom, and that a pump is
arranged at a level lower than that of the tank bottom for receiving the drill cuttings and
advancing them through an unloading line, which unloading line has an essentially
10 uniform cross section and is shaped so that the rate of flow near the internal wall of the
unloading line is substantially the same for the same cross-section of flow.

2.

A system according to Claim 1, characterized in that the unloading line is
15 made from or has an internal coating of a material with a low friction coefficient, e.g. a
plastic material.

3.

A system according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, characterized in that the pump is
20 a positive displacement pump.

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A system according to Claim 3, characterized in that the pump has a first
feed screw with a greater feeding capacity than a second downstream feed screw.

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5.

A tank for use in the system according to Claim 1, characterized in that the
tank has an upper, substantially circular cylindrical part and a lower frustoconical part
that ends in a substantially flat bottom, that the substantially flat bottom comprises an
30 output orifice that extends from the side wall of the conical part to an inner dome or
cone arranged essentially centrally on the flat bottom.

6.

A tank according to Claim 5, characterized in that the dome or cone is formed by a hub in an output unit, which comprises one or more arms arranged to rotate so as to transport the drill cuttings towards the output orifice.

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A tank according to Claim 5 or 6, characterized in that the output orifice has a valve, preferably a gate valve, arranged to assume several positions between fully closed and fully open, in order to control the output rate of the drill cuttings.

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A tank according to Claim 5, 6 or 7, characterized in that the tank has a greatest diameter of at least 3 metres and no more than half the available inside width of the ship, that the side wall of the conical part has an angle of between 20° and 45°, and that the dome or cone has an angle that lies within the same limits.

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9.

An output unit for use in the system according to Claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a hub and one or more arms projecting from the hub, which hub is formed as a cone or a dome and is placed centrally in the bottom of the tank, and that the at least one arm extends from the hub to the periphery of the bottom.

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An output unit according to Claim 9, characterized in that at least one arm extends at least partway up along a side wall in a conical part of the tank.

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